Integrated Public Safety Commission

2002 Annual Report

Integrated Public Safety Commission

Executive Summary

The Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) serves the people of Indiana by finding ways to develop, implement, and maintain integrated, coordinated response capability for public safety agencies across the state. Today, the IPSC concentrates its efforts on Project Hoosier SAFE-T (Safety Acting For Everyone – Together). The SAFE-T project offers public safety agencies the opportunity to participate in Motorola's interoperable, trunked digital 800 MHz voice and data communications network that will provide interagency communications and response.

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and the Beltway Sniper tragedy this past year are just two recent events that received international attention and emphasized the need and importance of interoperable communications systems for public safety agencies. The IPSC believes that public safety agencies must be able to effectively communicate at all governmental levels between all disciplines. Many local, state and federal agencies share in this belief; but the IPSC has the plan and has already begun implementation of an interoperable communications network on a statewide basis.

Currently, the SAFE-T network is operational on seven communications sites. Public safety agencies in Johnson County, Crawfordsville, and parts of southeastern Indiana joined SAFE-T and realize the enhanced safety and effectiveness in serving and protecting Hoosiers. Demonstrably, public safety officials in Johnson County recently responded to the devastation left behind by a tornado. Nine (9) fire departments and (4) police departments communicated simultaneously by radio on the SAFE-T network as they responded without past limitations; and what had taken 24 hours to accomplish in a similar response in 1996, took only seven hours with SAFE-T.

With a 129 communications site baseline design, SAFE-T will be implemented in four (4) phases. The Northern Phase is scheduled for completion by the end of 2003. Also, by October 2003, five existing communications sites used by State Emergency Management Agency and local public safety officials will be upgraded to the digital 800 MHz SAFE-T network to enhance the ability to respond in case of a disaster at the VX nerve agent facility in Newport. Eight additional sites will complete the coverage for seven counties in southeast Indiana in late 2003 or early 2004. The Central Phase is scheduled for completion by the end of 2004. The South West Phase is scheduled for completion by the end of 2005. Finally, the South East Phase is scheduled for completion by the end of 2006. The IPSC funds the implementation,

construction and maintenance of the SAFE-T network infrastructure. Participating public safety agencies then only purchase and maintain their communications subscriber equipment (radios, consoles, etc.) and local enhancements beyond the SAFE-T baseline design. The IPSC will utilize existing communications towers and facilities where possible, which produces significant up front savings; the seven communications sites currently operational were all existing sites. Additionally, participating agencies will save because the IPSC provides the funding for the SAFE-T infrastructure and its maintenance and they have access to the Integrated Public Safety Commission's volume pricing discounts.

The IPSC is truly a multi-agency initiative. Organizationally, the IPSC shares policy development and implementation with the Integrated Law Enforcement Council (ILEC) and the State Agency Public Safety Committee (SAPSC). Combined, these three bodies represent a broad spectrum of public safety, governmental, and public interests and each significantly contributes to the successful execution of the SAFE-T project plan. Furthermore, the IPSC partnered with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to combine funding and personnel resources in building out SAFE-T. Notably, the IPSC, along with similar agencies in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky, formed the Midwest Public Safety Communications Consortium (MPSCC) to expand the concept and application of interagency communications to interstate communications. The five member-states of the MPSCC plan to share resources in developing the largest regional, interoperable communications network in the nation.

Practically, the IPSC seeks out the communication system needs of local public safety agencies and further encourages their involvement in SAFE-T as the project comes to fruition. The IPSC staff has met with hundreds of public safety agencies at the local, state and federal level in order to foster broad participation and support for SAFE-T; and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Yet, SAFE-T represents an enormous project that requires technological expertise and significant time.

As the SAFE-T network comes to realization, Indiana public safety agencies will stand at the forefront of serving and protecting its citizens and visitors. Project Hoosier SAFE-T will foster safer communities and a better standard of living for all, because the police and fire departments, emergency medical services providers and other first responders will be able to effectively communicate and coordinate their responses. The SAFE-T network promises to eliminate outmoded, redundant and ineffective communication systems, to

the extent the agency using the communication system chooses to come on to the SAFE-T system. Ultimately, SAFE-T will save lives and save money. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and members of the General Assembly, without whose support we could not have achieved so much. The Indiana congressional delegation has been steadfast and unanimous in its support for Project Hoosier SAFE-T, resulting in $13,100,000 in federal earmarks that enabled the first phase of implementation to begin and continues to enable the construction.

Finally, our thanks go out to the local public safety and government officials, their associations and the other state agencies that had the vision and strength to support SAFE-T from concept to implementation over the past six years.

Purpose of Annual Report

This annual report serves to outline the significant accomplishments over the past 12 months of the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) established in IC 5-26-2-1. For additional information, contact Les Miller, Executive Director, at 317-232-8317 or visit the IPSC website at http://www.in.gov/ipsc/safe-t.

Introduction

2002 represented a significant and promising year for the IPSC, bringing closer to reality Project Hoosier SAFE-T, a statewide wireless public safety communications system. Indeed, much is yet to be accomplished, but the foundation has been laid. The vision driving SAFE-T is the integration of all local, state and federal public safety agencies' communication systems into a single, interoperable statewide 800 MHz voice and data communications network. In the short term, the goal is to enable interoperable communications either by public safety agencies choosing to join the network or by these agencies choosing to attach to the network while retaining their existing systems. By facilitating interagency communications, multi-agency coordination and response will be possible for routine, emergency or disastrous events. SAFE-T, through interoperable communications, promises to dramatically improve the security of both civilians and first responders, who risk their lives to protect others. A fundamental priority for the IPSC is to enhance the communication abilities of public safety agencies as much as possible. In the 2003 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2002, the first long-term state funding mechanism was provided to the IPSC, for implementation of SAFE-T. Project Hoosier SAFE-T represents the major objective of the IPSC.

Just as people in need depend on their personal communications to call for help, particularly the landline telephone or cellular telephone to call 911, the fire department, or the police department, the responding officials need and deserve dependable tools to enable them to act quickly and effectively; the SAFE-T network fulfills that need. Ultimately, SAFE-T will save lives, and it will save money.

Organizational Structure

The IPSC operates as a multi-faceted government agency incorporating a broad spectrum of public safety and local government knowledge and experience. It is the governing body for the SAFE-T system. The IPSC works with two other major working groups, the Integrated Law Enforcement Council (ILEC) and the State Agency Public Safety Committee (SAPSC), each supported by the IPSC staff. The Commission meets quarterly and as needed to accept policies and procedures, pass resolutions accepting public safety agencies for inclusion in SAFE-T and develop strategies for the technological and operational integration of public safety agency resources. The IPSC members are:

- Mr. Melvin Carraway, Chair, Superintendent of Indiana State Police
- Mr. Oatess E. Archey, Sheriff, Grant County
- Mr. Richard Gunselman, Police Chief, City of Jasper
- Mr. Charles E. Henderson, Mayor, Greenwood
- Mr. D.W. (Buzz) Howell II, Private Sector Representative, Eli Lilly & Company
- Mr. Richard Linenburg, E911 President for Knox County
- Mr. Richard Worman, Former Senator, Leo Indiana
- Mr. Harold Matthews, Campus Police Chief, University of Evansville
- Mr. Dennis Probasco, Vice Chair, Health Services Director, Lafayette
- Mr. Thomas Fuentes, F.B.I. Special Agent in Charge for Indiana
- Mr. Luther Taylor, Fire Chief, City of South Bend
- Mr. John Catey, County Commissioner, Wayne County

SAPSC and the SAPSC technical subcommittee combine the knowledge and resources of state agencies in addressing and resolving communications system challenges particular to the state government. State agencies comprising SAPSC are:

- Military Department of Indiana
- Indiana State Police Department
- Department of Environmental Management

- Department of State Revenue
- State Emergency Management Agency
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Administration
- Department of Correction
- Alcohol and Tobacco Commission

ILEC unites statewide agencies and associations that represent public safety and local governments in developing and implementing policy for improving interagency cooperation and communication. The current members involved are:
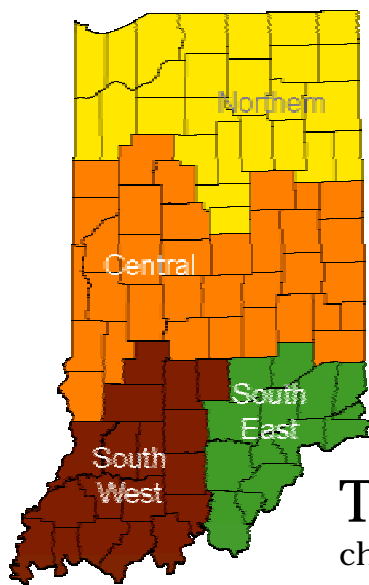
- Association of Indiana Counties
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police
- Indiana Association of Cities and Towns
- Indiana Black Troopers Association
- Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Indiana Fire Chiefs Association
- Indiana Fraternal Order of Police
- Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Indiana Sheriffs Association
- Indiana State Police
- Indiana State Police Alliance
- Indiana Troopers Association
- Law Enforcement Training Board
- Office of State Fire Marshal
- Professional Firefighters Association
- Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- State Emergency Management Agency
- State Emergency Medical Services
- Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association
- National Emergency Number Association
- Department of Transportation

The IPSC staff consists of seven persons who work full-time or part-time on Project Hoosier SAFE-T and supporting the IPSC, ILEC, and SAPSC. These positions include an: Executive Director, Comptroller, Executive Assistant, two Field Coordinators, Communications Director, and Implementation Director. The Executive Director functions as both the agency head and project manager and retains his position and responsibilities as Special Counsel to the

Superintendent of the ISP. The Executive Director is not paid a salary from the IPSC. The Comptroller is responsible for both fiscal activities and human resources. The Executive Assistant drafts correspondence, schedules presentations, and teams with the Executive Director in communicating the IPSC's perspective on certain issues. The two Field Coordinators meet with public safety and local government officials across the state to seek support of SAFE-T and provide them with the information necessary for them to decide whether to join SAFE-T. The Communications Director handles media and public relations. Finally, the Implementation Director manages the logistics of site construction and implementation of system infrastructure. Due to the lean staffing structure, each member of the IPSC team shares in achieving the objectives and responsibilities of the agency.

Phases of Implementation and Timeline for Completion

Project Hoosier SAFE-T will be constructed statewide, under a four-phase implementation plan with a baseline design of 129 communications sites. The Northern Phase (indicated in yellow) is scheduled for completion at the end of 2003; the Central Phase (indicated in orange) is scheduled for completion at the end of 2004; the South West Phase (indicated in dark red) is scheduled for completion at the end of 2005; and the South East Phase (indicated in green) is scheduled for completion at the end of 2006.

The IPSC staff has developed a series of implementation checklists that provide procedural guidance to interested agencies joining SAFE-T. The checklists encompass comprehensive step-by-step processes to ensure successful operational and technical integration onto SAFE-T. Distinctive checklists are provided dependent on the type of agency. The checklists correspond to the governmental status of the agency, local, state, or federal, and are geared to simplify the agency's transition process. Not only are the implementation checklists a valuable informational source regarding SAFE-T, but also further they establish a rough timeline from beginning to end of the transition to SAFE-T.

Seven communications sites are currently operational under SAFE-T. The Mooresville and Franklin sites provide coverage for Johnson County, and parts

of Hendricks and Morgan Counties. Johnson County officials acknowledged the crucial need for effective public safety communications. In an incredible joining together of public safety officials, they sought out the most technologically advanced and economically feasible communication system available. Their research led them to Project Hoosier SAFE-T. In January 2002, Johnson County used bonding to purchase all public safety agencies in Johnson County the equipment to join the SAFE-T network. A second communications site in Johnson County, using an existing tower, will soon be added to enhance communications coverage in the City of Greenwood and White River Township. Use of existing government or commercially owned tower structures, given appropriate height and condition, is a cost effective method of implementing SAFE-T and represents a major priority for the IPSC.

A third communications site, an existing commercial tower structure in Crawfordsville, provides coverage to most of Montgomery County. In October 2002, the Crawfordsville Police Department joined SAFE-T and the Montgomery County Sheriff Department and the city and township fire departments may soon join. The Indiana State Police (ISP), DNR, SEMA and INDOT either are or will be will be operating off the Crawfordsville tower. This combination of agencies is the quintessential example of interoperability; not only interoperability in regard to interagency communication, but also in the practical sense of tactical, multi-agency response to combat crime and natural disaster.

Communities in Hendricks County have aggressively sought to join the SAFE-T network. The town of Danville has elected to come onto the SAFE-T network having purchased portable and mobile subscriber equipment for both fire and police departments. Also, the Pittsboro Fire Department has radio equipment and is expected to be operational soon.

The remaining four communications sites, which are existing state police towers and buildings, are operational in southeastern Indiana allowing agencies already equipped with 800 MHz equipment to utilize the system across several counties in that region. Soon, an additional eight communications sites will be activated under SAFE-T to enhance coverage across a seven-county region in southeastern Indiana, permitting many local and state agencies to join the others on the same, interoperable system.

Outreach

Currently, the two field coordinators are tasked to meet with public safety officials, government representatives, and interested parties across the state. To begin the process of joining SAFE-T, the field coordinators make initial contacts, set up meetings, and collect communication system data. SAFE-T's cornerstone is inclusiveness – all public safety agencies are invited to participate in the project. Thus, the field coordinators form and maintain an interactive dialogue with as many public safety agencies as possible. To achieve this end, the field coordinators listen to the communication needs of the local agencies, provide system surveys identifying local system specifics, present the coverage maps offered by the SAFE-T network, and explain additional benefits of SAFE-T.

In only five months, IPSC's two field coordinators have held over 200 meetings with public safety and local government officials from 56 counties across the state. Due to the implementation phase plan, the field coordinators have focused their efforts in northern Indiana, which is the first of the four-phase project. Given the sheer geographical size of Indiana and the large number of public safety agencies throughout the state, meeting with all public safety agencies presents a daunting task. Despite the IPSC staff's limited resources, they have diligently attempted to invite all interested parties to meet with or contact them to discuss local communications needs and desires and explain how the SAFE-T network works. To date, IPSC staff has met with the following entities, categorized by county:

Adams
Sheriff Department
911 Director's Office

Allen
Fort Wayne Police Department
Sheriff
Emergency Management
Fort Wayne Fire Department
Fort Wayne Mayor

Bartholomew
Sheriff Department

Boone
Sheriff Department

Brown
Sheriff Department

Cass
Emergency Management
Sheriff Department

Clay
Sheriff Department

Clinton
Emergency Management
Sheriff Department

Dearborn
Aurora Police Department
Aurora Fire Department
Aurora Emergency Response
Aurora Mayor
Aurora Clerk
Bright VFD
Bright EMS
County Commissioners
Sheriff Department
Emergency Management
Greendale Fire Department
Greendale EMS
Hogan Township VFD
Lawrenceburg EMS
Lawrenceburg Fire Department
Lawrenceburg Police Department
Lawrenceburg Mayor
Lawrenceburg City Council
Manchester Fire Rescue
Miller-York VFD
Moores Hill Sparta Township VFD
St. Leon Fire Department
St. Leon Police Department

Decatur
County Commissioners
Greensburg Fire Department
Greensburg Police Department
Greensburg Mayor
Greensburg City Council
Westport Town Council

DeKalb
Auburn Fire Department
Auburn Police Department
County Commissioners
Sheriff Department
Auburn Mayor

Elkhart
County Commissioners
Elkhart City Communications
Nappanee City Communications

Fountain
County Commissioners
Emergency Management

Franklin
Sheriff Department
Emergency Management
County Dispatch
Brookville Town VFD
Brookville Rural VFD
Drewersburg VFD
Laurel VFD
Laurel EMS
New Trenton VFD
Eagle Fire Company
Brookville EMS

Fulton
County Communications
Rochester Police Department

Gibson
Sheriff Department
Oakland City VFD
Francisco VFD
Princeton VFD

Hamilton
Sheriff Department
Carmel/Clay Communications
Noblesville Police Department

Hendricks
Sheriff Department
County Commissioners
Brownsburg Fire Department
Brownsburg Police Department
Brownsburg City Council
Avon Police Department
Avon Fire Department
Danville Police Department
Danville Fire Department
Hendricks County Police Chiefs
Pittsboro Fire Department
Plainfield Police Department

Howard
Sheriff Department
County Communications
Kokomo Communications

Huntington
Bippus Fire Department
Emergency Management
Sheriff Department
County EMS
Huntington Fire Department
Markle Fire Department
Mt. Etna Fire Department
Warren Fire Department

Jasper
Rensselaer Police Department
Rensselaer Fire Department
Sheriff Department

Jefferson
Sheriff Department
Madison Police Department

Johnson
Bargersville Police Department
Bargersville VFD
Edinburgh Police Department
Edinburgh VFD
Franklin Police Department
Franklin Fire Department
Greenwood Police Department
Greenwood Fire Department
Sheriff Department
Princess Lakes Police Department
Amity VFD
Clark Township VFD
New Whiteland VFD
Needham VFD
Nineveh VFD
Trafalgar VFD
Whiteland VFD
White River VFD

Knox
Vincennes Township VFD

Kosciusko
Sheriff Department
County Dispatch
Syracuse Police Department
Warsaw Police Department

LaGrange
Sheriff Department
911 Director's Office
Emergency Management

Lake
Sheriff Department
Schererville Police Department
Gary Police Department
Highland Fire Department
Griffith Fire Department
Griffith Police Department
Town of Griffith
Merrillville Fire Department
Merrillville Police Department
Munster Fire Department
Munster Police Department
City of East Chicago
Lowell Police Department
Town of Munster
Town of Schererville

LaPorte
Sheriff Department
LaPorte Police Department
LaPorte Fire Department
Lincoln Township VFD
Michiana Shores Fire Department
Michiana Shores Police Department
Michigan City Police Department
New Carlisle Marshal
Pleasant Township VFD
Springfield Township Fire
Department
Trail Creek Police Department
Westville Fire Department
Westville Police Department
Emergency Management
County EMS

11

Kingsbury Police Department
Kingsford Heights Police Department
County HAZMAT

Madison
Madison Police Department

Marshall
Sheriff Department
Plymouth Police Department

Miami
Sheriff Department
Emergency Management
County E911

Montgomery
Crawfordsville Police Department
Crawfordsville Fire Department
Crawfordsville Mayor
Crawfordsville City Council
Sheriff Department
County Commissioners
County Council

Newton
911 Director's Office

Noble
Sheriff Department
Kendallville Police Department
Kendallville Fire Department
911 Director's Office

Ohio
Sheriff Department
County Communications
Rising Sun Police Department

Orange
Orleans Fire Department

Owen
Sheriff Department

Parke
Emergency Management
County Commissioners
Sheriff Department

Porter
Portage Fire Department
Valparaiso Police Department
Town of Beverly Shores
Emergency Management
Sheriff Department
911 Director's Office

Posey
New Harmony VFD

Pulaski
Francesville Fire Department
Medaryville Fire Department
Sheriff Department
County Commissioners
County Council
Emergency Management

Ripley
County Communications
Sheriff Department
Batesville Police Department
Osgood Police Department

St. Joseph
South Bend Police Department
South Bend Fire Department
South Bend Mayor
South Bend Communications
Sheriff Department
County Fire Department
County Dispatch
Mishawaka Dispatch
Mishawaka Police Department
Mishawaka Fire Department
Clay Township VFD
Michiana Airport Security

Shelby
Sheriff Department

Starke
Sheriff Department

Steuben
Angola Police Department
Angola Fire Department
County Communications

Sullivan
County Communications

Switzerland
Switzerland County Representatives

Tippecanoe
Sheriff Department
Purdue University
Lafayette Police Department
West Lafayette Police Department

Tipton
Tipton Police Department
Tipton Fire Department
County Communications
Sheriff Department
County E911
County Commissioners

Vermillion
Emergency Management
Sheriff Department
Township Fire Departments
Clinton Police Department

Vigo
Sheriff Department
Honey Creek Fire Department

Wabash
Emergency Management
Wabash City Police Department
Wabash City Fire Department

Warrick
Newburgh VFD

Wells
Bluffton Police Department
Bluffton Fire Department

Whitley
911 Director's Office

System Surveys

System survey documents contain data about existing communication systems in any given agency. The collected information allows the IPSC staff to better understand the current status of communication systems across the state, and in turn, improve the SAFE-T system design to allow for optimum coverage and functionality for all participating public safety agencies. The IPSC has received completed system surveys from over 80 agencies spanning nearly 30 counties. The results indicate an overwhelming interest in joining SAFE-T; the barrier – lack of funding for purchasing subscriber communications equipment.

Major Meetings and Presentations

Associations representing public safety officials statewide frequently request the IPSC staff to hold informational and interactive sessions about Project Hoosier SAFE-T. The IPSC understands that broad support for any initiative is vital to a project's success, and so the IPSC staff attends as many conferences, conventions and seminars as possible. The objectives of the sessions are to inform, update, address issues and concerns, and seek resolutions to challenges faced. The following represent notable engagements in 2002:

- Presentations to the northern regional offices of Senators Richard Lugar and Evan Bayh and the office of Representative Peter Visclosky
- Indiana Sheriffs Association
- Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police
- Governor's Summit on Homeland Security
- Association of Indiana Counties
- Indiana Association of Cities and Towns
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 5
- Indiana Fire Chiefs Association
- Indiana Chapter of National Emergency Number Association
- Motorola Trade Show
- Public Safety Matters Evaluation Committee
- Indiana Association of County Commissioners conference
- Indiana Sheriffs School
- Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association

Proven Effectiveness of the SAFE-T Network

Interoperable communications provide a lifeline to the public safety officials who risk their lives to save others. The horror of September 11, 2001 brought the need and importance of effective interoperable communications systems to a head. The lack of interagency communication on radios between the New York fire and police departments is believed to have contributed to the loss of firefighters' lives, because the police could not warn the firefighters of the impending collapse of the World Trade Center buildings. Similarly, the Beltway Snipers, crossed city, county and state lines to commit their murderous acts, while law enforcement officials initially lacked the capacity for interoperable voice communications across jurisdictional borders. Undoubtedly, the benefits of interagency voice and data communications are evident in the tragic World Trade Center and Beltway Sniper events.

Indiana faces its own disasters, and no one knows what the future holds.

Tornadoes ripped across Indiana on September 20, 2002 destroying homes, schools and entire communities. Johnson County was among the areas hit hardest by the storms. Similarly, in 1996, Johnson County residents were victimized by a tornado's destruction. However, in 2002, unlike 1996, the SAFE-T network supported public safety officials across Johnson County. Nine (9) fire departments and four (4) police departments that never before could talk on the same radio system, were on the same system, coordinating their response and avoiding overlap of resources. In effect, the 2002 response took only seven hours using SAFE-T, whereas the 1996 response took 24 hours. 12,955 transmissions came through two sites in 7 hours, with an average of 31 per minute. Most importantly, the public safety officials greatly valued their communication capabilities under SAFE-T.

A series of successful drug raids in Madison, southeastern Indiana, convinced state troopers at the Versailles Post, National Guard personnel, and local public safety agencies that SAFE-T works. ISP troopers set up an undisclosed command post to coordinate drug raids using about 70 officers. Multiple agencies then utilized mobile radios operating on SAFE-T and with improved tactical coordination and security made 25 drug-related arrests.

Promising Partnerships

The IPSC aims to build working relationships with as many agencies as possible. Four strong associations have developed since the inception of Project Hoosier SAFE-T between the IPSC and the INDOT, SEMA, ISP, and DNR. Recently, interagency memoranda of understanding (MOU) have been executed between the IPSC and SEMA and DNR wherein each agency has agreed to support the objectives of SAFE-T, come on the system as it is implemented and share, when possible, resources and agency personnel to assist with the project. Other interagency MOUs are being executed at the time of this report.

A recent allocation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the SEMA will partially fund the upgrade of five (5) communications sites to SAFE-T throughout central Indiana. The IPSC will be contributing funds and oversight to ensure compliance with the SAFE-T design. This joint project between the IPSC and SEMA/FEMA is another example of the cooperation

between agencies to implement a public safety communications network that provides true interoperability between local, state and federal agencies.

INDOT has contributed greatly to the safety and security of Indiana citizens by partnering with the IPSC and playing a key role in SAFE-T's implementation along the Toll Road in northern Indiana. Recent funding provided through INDOT has aided in site construction in Franklin and southeastern Indiana. Currently, funding is available to SAFE-T in the northwest corridor and along the Toll Road in northern Indiana. The Toll Road is providing an equipment building and support services for the second master site zone controller that will support the northern phase of construction, with approximately 32 communications sites.

The ISP department has been a significant partner in the implementation of SAFE-T. ISP communications and building engineering personnel have provided technical support and services and have been instrumental in the construction and integration of each of the communications sites to date. Their expertise in civil site construction, tower design requirements, inspection of sites, assessing the conditions of the structures, grounds, and equipment, and evaluating their potential use by SAFE-T has been invaluable. Other logistics and fiscal analysis support has been provided since the inception of the project.

Midwest Public Safety Communications Consortium

Through an unprecedented showing of support and interstate cooperation, five Midwest states, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan have united resources to make interoperable communications a reality within each state and potentially on a region-wide basis. This historical initiative presents the largest multi-state partnership aimed at integrating public safety communications systems across state lines. Members acknowledge the vitality of effective, interoperable communications in combating crime, terrorism, and natural disaster to create a secure homeland. Immediately, the five state representatives showed no signs of hesitation in joining forces. Each state hopes to share bordering tower sites to establish interstate coverage and allow for interstate public safety communications. The members will team together to attain funding and steeper discounts than any single state has achieved on infrastructure and subscriber equipment. Currently, the MPSCC is drafting an MOU. Through this memorandum, the consortium will emphasize that state lines do not restrict crime, terrorism, and natural disaster; but state lines do hold back public safety officials and their capacity to effectively communicate.

Thayer Consulting, IPSC's consultant is optimizing the tower site coverage across the state. Thayer Consulting's engineering consultant has reconfigured the initial baseline design, eliminating the need for three (3) sites, two (2) in southeast Indiana and one (1) in north central Indiana, saving the state of Indiana over $500,000 per site. Continuing evaluation of the remainder of the baseline design will hopefully result in more savings.

The seven sites now operational under SAFE-T were all existing sites needing only enhancements, thereby avoiding the costs of new construction in a greenfield site.

SEMA, in 2003, through a $5.2 million federal grant from FEMA, upgrades their current analog communication system to the digital 800 MHz SAFE-T network using existing tower sites and communications facilities throughout central Indiana. This upgrade will enable other public safety agencies not currently using the digital 800 MHz system to join SAFE-T. This partnership in funding reduces the total cost to the state of the implementing SAFE-T.

INDOT has dedicated $3 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Act funds as part of their contribution to help with construction of communications sites in the designated non-attainment areas of the state.

Local savings derived from participation in SAFE-T include Johnson County's estimated savings of over $3 million in infrastructure and maintenance costs and cost to purchase subscriber equipment thanks to joining the SAFE-T system. Also, the City of Crawfordsville estimates savings of $750,000 in infrastructure and maintenance and subscriber equipment due to SAFE-T. As radio equipment and maintenance for local agency users are the financial obligation of participating public safety agencies, the IPSC has negotiated on public safety agencies' behalf to attain the lowest prices in the country on equipment and maintenance with Motorola including: seven (7) year flat rate pricing; 20-25% discounted pricing on equipment; and volume discounts on maintenance.

Funding Attained

In the 2002 Session, the Indiana General Assembly acknowledged the significant need of public safety agencies across the state of Indiana to upgrade and enhance their disparate, outmoded communications systems by providing funding to the IPSC to implement SAFE-T this past March. The IPSC will receive $1.25 out of the service fee collected on certain Bureau of Motor Vehicle transactions. The General Assembly dedicated a portion of this revenue to help fund the ISP laboratories to reduce the backlog. This dedication removes $75,000,000 in funding for SAFE-T over its 15-year life.

Through the support and dedication of Indiana's members of Congress, over $13.1 million in federal earmarks have been allocated to SAFE-T since the project's inception. With potential monies available through Homeland Security initiatives, local, state and federal public safety agencies may soon be able to purchase communications equipment and infrastructure and share in an interoperable communication network.

Recognition of Project Hoosier SAFE-T

Numerous inquiries from around the country come to the IPSC's attention often entailing recognition for Indiana's leading initiative for public safety communications. Interested parties request information on SAFE-T's progress, strategy for implementation, and its effectiveness. Nebraska, Oregon, South Carolina, and Tennessee officials, to name a few, sought information on a model approach to interoperable public safety communications on a statewide basis, Project Hoosier SAFE-T. Moreover, national programs emphasizing effective, interoperable communications systems have recognized SAFE-T including: the Public Safety Wireless Network, a national program aimed toward protecting lives and property by equipping public safety officials with proper communication tools; the National Task Force on Interoperability, which selected the IPSC Executive Director as a member and chair of the Governance Working Group. SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, dedicated to enhancing information management of criminal justice system and the effective application of information and identification technology.

Johnson County public safety and elected officials as well, praised the SAFE-T system performance after the tornado on September 20, 2002. "The interagency communications were there," Mr. John Asher, Johnson County Communications Director, claimed "and when they [first responders] needed to get through, the system worked. I hope the rest of the state sees the importance of good communications." Mr. Joe Pitcher, Johnson County Attorney, applauded the SAFE-T network stating, "it did exactly what was intended . . . I can't imagine how we would have handled this with a two-channel system."

Challenges

Most public safety agencies across Indiana have strong support and interest in SAFE-T's digital, interoperable communications network. And although the IPSC funds all infrastructure implementation, construction, and maintenance, and assess no user fees, participating agencies must still purchase their user equipment. The challenge then is finding funding resources for local, state and federal agencies. Also, long-term funding for SAFE-T remains short, leaving many public safety agencies with outdated and disparate communications systems. Tied to the funding shortage is a lean staffing structure. Michigan for comparison employed nearly 100 persons to build out its statewide system, while Indiana has six full-time and one part-time employee, plus a few employees of ISP and INDOT, who are available on a part-time basis. Nonetheless, the IPSC staff share in multiple tasks and work diligently to bring SAFE-T to fruition. A final burden facing the IPSC is skepticism of the SAFE-T project due to years of promises without funding. Now, with funding from the General Assembly, the project has the power to progress and help remedy the skepticism. As the project becomes operational and is put to the test, skeptics will see the benefits of SAFE-T.

Plans for 2003

As the SAFE-T network implementation rolls out from northern Indiana and moves south in four phases, public safety officials and the public will benefit and live in a more secure state. Economic development efforts will be improved because of the enhanced quality of life SAFE-T provides.